

Masthead Logo

International Writing Program Annual Report

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International Writing Program annual report 2007

University of Iowa International Writing Program

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International Writing Program

Annual Report 2007

University of Iowa



*Dedicated to the memory
of Norine Zamastil*

Photos and graphics
(from left to right)

top row

second row from the top

second row from the bottom

bottom row

Kazuko Shiraishi (1976), calligraphy by Ramon Lim,
Hauling and Paul Engle (1970s), Uli symbol
calligraphy by Cheryl Jacobsen, Elena Bossi (2007), Zapf dingbat, Veronique Tadjo
and Mathilde Walter Clark (2006)
IWP participants on the Shambaugh House porch (2005), Uli symbol,
Shambaugh House, calligraphy by Cheryl Jacobsen,
peace sign, Arvind and Wandana Mehrotra (1971), calligraphy by Cheryl Jacobsen,
Tomaž Šalamun (1971)



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GREETINGS FROM IOWA CITY

A Letter from IWP Director Christopher Merrill.

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The 40th session of the International Writing Program (IWP) marked an extraordinary milestone in our program's history. This fall, the IWP hosted forty writers from twenty-seven countries, who took part in one of the most dynamic residencies ever. These writers gathered in Iowa City to write and research; to translate and undertake collaborative projects; to interact with the community. The centerpiece of this year's residency was our 40th Anniversary Commemoration, which took place during the week of October 7. To celebrate the program's past and future, the IWP invited a special contingent of acclaimed authors, critics, publishers, and thinkers from all over the world to participate in a variety of events. The conversation was at times dizzying.

For forty years, the IWP has been a home-away-from-home for professional writers of all stripes. In Iowa City, long recognized as one of the most literary cities in the U.S., IWP participants become part of the vibrant community of students, teachers, artists, and literary professionals who make this city such a tremendous place to live and work. In 1967, IWP co-founders Paul and Hualing Nieh Engle began with an ambitious vision: to unite fiction writers, poets, essayists, playwrights and screenwriters from every corner of the earth

for writing and fellowship. Since then, the IWP has hosted nearly 1100 writers from more than 120 countries, making ours the oldest and largest residency of its kind. At every turn, the IWP strives to connect artists; to create understanding that transcends national, political, and cultural boundaries. For this reason, the IWP has been called "The United Nations of Writers." And in 2007, the program truly lived up to the nickname. This report opens a brief window on the program; for more information about the writers we hosted, and to listen to recordings of their many public performances, I invite you to visit the IWP website <http://iwp.uiowa.edu>, and the Virtual Writing University audio archive <http://writinguniversity.org>.

With every success the IWP deepens its mission, seeking ever more innovative ways to bring writers together. In 2007 we hosted our second symposium on the Greek island of Paros, convening writers from the U.S. and other countries to explore the topic, "Justice." We also took a select group of American writers on a reading tour of the Middle East, during which these writers met their literary counterparts in Jordan, Syria, Israel, and the West Bank. Preparations for the 2008 symposium, on the subject of "Home," and another Middle East Tour, are underway right now. And in summer

2008, the IWP will partner with the University of Iowa's Young Writers Studio to bring a dozen high school students and two renowned faculty writers from Arabic-speaking countries to participate in a special writing workshop called Between the Lines. Our goal is to nurture new connections between writers and readers in this strategic region.

Thank you for supporting the IWP. As always, I invite you to attend the many events that take place during our fall residency. We look forward to another marvelous year.

Warm regards,
Christopher Merrill
Director



THE FALL RESIDENCY

The mission of the IWP is to provide talented writers with the time and tools necessary for creating great art. In all its endeavors, the program echoes E.M. Forster's urgent call, "only connect." In a world where suspicion and distrust often hinder conversation, the IWP offers writers a forum for exploration and dialogue that transcends national, political, and cultural borders. To bring writers together in the spirit of hope and fellowship is the IWP's most cherished project.

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In fall 2007, forty writers from twenty-seven countries gathered in Iowa City for a residency that marked a watershed moment in our program's history. More than four decades ago on the banks of the Iowa River, Chinese novelist Hualing Nieh Engle urged her husband Paul (having lately completed his tenure as director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop) to facilitate a residency for international writers on the University of Iowa campus. It was a time of conflict, anxiety, and upheaval in the U.S. and on the world stage, with the Cold War and other tensions drawing a seemingly impenetrable barrier between U.S. writers and their literary counterparts around the world. Who, then, could fault Paul's initial response to Hualing that day: "An international writing program? What a crazy idea!"

Forty years later, we find ourselves still happily carrying out Paul and Hualing's "crazy" mission, having hosted yet another group of gifted writers this fall in Iowa City. For our co-founders, the 1967 International Writing Program residency was a season of firsts; those early years witnessed the program become a haven for writers living and working behind the Iron Curtain. Many of the first participants had never visited the U.S. before, nor had they enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas in an atmosphere unbound by censorship and national

politics. Today, the IWP continues to break new ground. In 2007, the program hosted its first participant from Malta, poet Simone Inguanez, and its first from Montenegro, fiction writer Ognjen Spahić. These writers joined in one of our largest fall residencies ever, featuring participants from Malaysia and Indonesia; Jamaica and Haiti; New Zealand and South Africa; Hong Kong and The Philippines; Egypt and Syria; along with particularly robust representation from Russia (six writers in total) and other countries. The IWP renewed its many productive relationships with sources of public and private support, and embraced new connections with embassies and arts councils around the world. It was an equation that added up to countless new collaborations, friendships, and artistic exchanges during this important anniversary year.

Each fall, the various writing units, research centers, and academic departments at the University of Iowa enrich the IWP residency in countless ways. Members of the UI community work collaboratively across genres and disciplines, always looking to foster new opportunities for creative growth. In 2007, our writers contributed powerfully to this ongoing project, taking part in nearly 100 public events and treating audiences



Open World Cultural Delegates from Russia Maria Galina (far left) and Leonid Kostyukov (left) meet new friends in Iowa City.

to wonderful readings and performances of their work. A few of the highlights included the September 7 live broadcast of *Know the Score* on Iowa Public Radio, featuring IWP Program Director Christopher Merrill and István László Géhér (poet, Hungary), Verena Tay (playwright, Singapore), and Peter Kimani (fiction writer and journalist, Kenya); *Global Express*, a night of staged readings and dramatic performances at the UI Theatre Building on October 6, directed by Maggie Conroy; Jamaican poet and novelist Kei Miller's October 22 launch of his new poetry volume, *There Is an Anger That Moves* (Carcanet); and Indian physician and fiction writer Kavary Nambisan's televised October 30 presentation to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council entitled "Health Care: Why It Should Not Be a Luxury Item." At every turn, our writers captivated audiences by offering their unique perspectives on writing, culture, and world affairs. IWP writers visited classrooms (including the undergraduate course, *International Literature Today*), read from their work at Prairie Lights Bookstore and the University of Iowa Museum of Art, and participated in spirited panel talks at the Iowa City Public Library. Soon, many of their public readings will be archived on the Virtual Writing University website and other web sources. Time and again, IWP participants

fostered a meaningful presence that will be felt in the community for years to come.

And Iowa City responded in kind, welcoming our writers to the Midwest in a variety of special ways. On September 5, the Center for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) hosted a dinner for the writers at Divots Bar & Grill (Brown Deer Golf Course, Coralville). And on September 20, the writers gathered at the home of Michael Judge (of the UI School of Journalism and Mass Communication) and his wife Masae for The First Annual "World Comes to Iowa" Soiree. It was an evening of food, music, and conversation attended by several UI faculty and local artists who welcomed the writers to town. Meanwhile, post-graduate fellows from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and NonFiction Writing Program invited the writers to participate in two literary salons (September 27 and October 16) at the Church St. House, a new center for writing and hospitality at the UI.

These salons focused on issues in contemporary poetry and fiction writing, and were attended by graduate students and faculty from the Writers' Workshop and other UI writing programs. IWP writers were also featured during the Old Capitol



Lawrence Pun (Hong Kong) gives a panel presentation at the Iowa City Public Library.

"Ofentimes I find there is no need to invent or to create. There is only the need to see, and then to tell."

-Kei Miller (Jamaica)

"The Texture of Fiction"

"I'm indebted only to books. They bear the responsibility for why I became a writer."

-Ayurzana Gun-Ajav (Mongolia)

"The Most Important Book on My Bookshelf:
The Writer as Reader"

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Museum's yearlong exhibition, *A Community of Writers: Creative Writing at the University of Iowa*. Photographer Tom Langdon's special gallery of IWP portraits entitled "The World Comes to Iowa: Portraits of the International Writing Program," was on display outside the Old Senate Chambers from October through December 2007. Touring the exhibit gave the writers a sense of how deeply the UI community values the creative writers in its midst. Several of Tom's portraits from the 2007 residency are found in this report.

Classroom visits and community outreach are vital elements of every IWP residency. This year, the program fielded dozens of requests for our writers to appear at colleges, universities, and other institutions locally and nationwide. Verena Tay (Singapore) spoke at the West Branch Lions' Club; Peter Kimani (Kenya) participated in a panel discussion after a screening of the film *Uganda Rising* (part of *GuluWalk 2007*); and Hamdy El-Gazzar (Egypt), Kei Miller (Jamaica), Beaudelaine Pierre (Haiti), and Kavery Nambisan (India) each visited high school students at Elizabeth Tate School, an alternative high school in Iowa City.

"As you write, your real life takes shape around you."

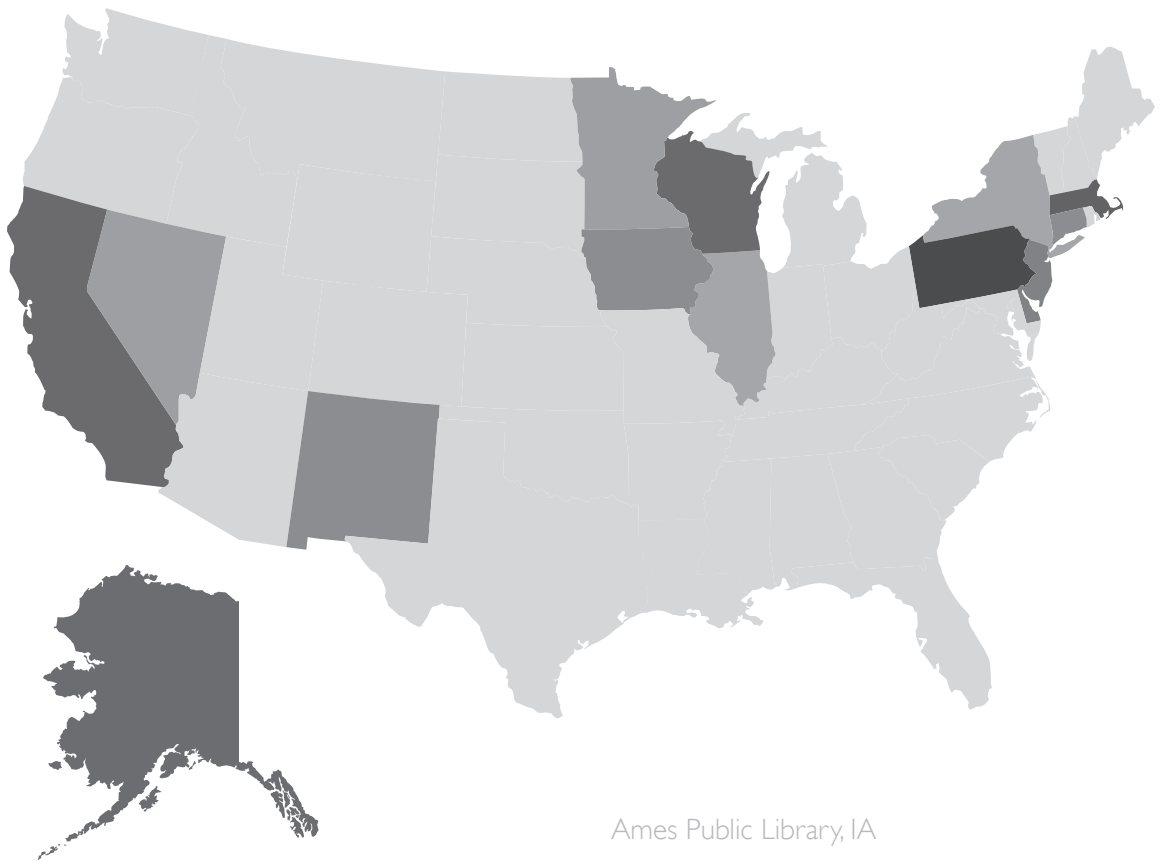
-Penelope Todd (New Zealand)

"Writing as Philosophy and Craft"

"Our actions are not always what they seem. Our lives and the lives of those around us are not always what they appear to be. On this fertile ground of illusions, unrealized truths, and the tensions of everyday life, literature is built."

-Kavery Nambisan (India)

"Migration, Diaspora, and Exile: The Writer Survives"



Other places, events, and institutions
our writers visited were:

Ames Public Library, IA
 Cornell College, IA
 Carleton College, MN
 Chatham University, PA
 The Chicago Humanities Festival, IL
 City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, PA
 The City of Las Vegas, NV
 The City of New York, NY
 The City of San Francisco, CA
 The City of Santa Fe, NM
 Columbia University, NY
 Cornell University, NY
 Grinnell College, IA
 The Guild Complex, IL
 Harvard University, MA
 The Island Institute in Sitka, AK
 The Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.)
 Northwestern University, IL
 Rutgers University, NJ
 The University of Chicago, IL
 The University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI
 Viterbo University, WI
 Yale University, CT

FIELD TRIPS, RECEPTIONS & CULTURAL EVENTS

8.25

Start of Residency

8.26

Nature Walk at Red Bird Farm

8.28

Opening Party (Merrill Home)

9.1

Trip to Coral Ridge Mall

9.3

Labor Day Field Trip to Lake Macbride

9.5

CIVIC Dinner (Coralville)

9.6

Tri-State Rodeo (Fort Madison)

9.7

Prose Reading by Peter Green

9.13

Text & Context: American Poetry

9.15

Tour of Amish/Mennonite Community in Kalona, IA

9.16

Fiction Reading by Junot Diaz

9.17

Judd Laghi (literary agent) talk

9.18

Text & Context: The U.S. Publishing Scene

9.20

'World Comes to Iowa' Reception

9.21

Chinese Folk Dance & Music Concert

9.27

Salon Discussion on Fiction

10.4

Poetry Reading by Jorie Graham



From left to right: Hana Andronikova (Czech Republic), István Géher (Hungary), and Aziz Shakir-Tash (Bulgaria)

10.5

Reception for Open World Delegation from Russia

10.6

Global Express Performance

10.7-13

IWP 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

10.16

Salon Discussion on Poetry of the Avant Garde

10.18

Poetry/Translation Reading by Peter Cole

10.19

Fiction Reading by Edward P. Jones

10.22

Kei Miller Book Launch

10.23

Poetry Reading by John Matthias

10.24

US Bank Reception



From left to right: Kei Miller (Jamaica) and Alex Epstein (Israel)

10.24

Bob Dylan & Elvis Costello Concert

10.25

2007 Truman Capote Award Ceremony

10.27

Harvest Party, Dane Farm

10.29-30

Creative Writing Curriculum Conference

11.1

Graduate Student Reading (MFA Program in Translation)

11.1-3

Bedell NonFictionNow Conference

11.4

Chicago Humanities Festival

11.8

Peter Nazareth Book Launch

11.9

Closing Party (Merrill Home)

11.10-11.14

Group Trips to Santa Fe, San Francisco, Las Vegas

11.14-17

Visit to Washington, D.C.

11.17-19

Visit to New York City

11.20

Departure Day/End of Residency

2007 RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES BY WRITER

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Hana Andronikova (Czech Republic)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel

Elena Bossi (Argentina)

Reading, 40th Anniversary Week
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Reading, Grinnell College
Reading/Panel, Viterbo University

Chris Chrysopoulos (Greece)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
Professional visit, Rutgers University

Nirwan Dewanto (Indonesia)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Roundtable Discussion, The Guild Complex (Chicago)
Reading and Presentation, Northwestern University

Tom Dreyer (South Africa)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
Residency, The Island Institute (Alaska)

Hamdy El Gazzar (Egypt)

Reading and Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Elizabeth Tate High School
Roundtable Discussion, The Guild Complex (Chicago)
Reading and Presentation, Northwestern University

Alex Epstein (Israel)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Senior College

Maria Galina (Russia)

Open World Delegate
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today

István László Geher (Hungary)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Collaborative poetry project, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation to students from Des Moines Central Academy
Presentation, Avant-Garde Poetry Salon

Malim Ghazali PK (Malaysia)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Senior College

Ksenia Golubovich (Russia)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque
Presentation to students from Des Moines Central Academy
Presentation, Avant-Garde Poetry Salon
Presentation, Harvard University
Roundtable Discussion, The Guild Complex (Chicago)
Reading and Presentation, Northwestern University

Ayurzana Gun-Aajav (Mongolia)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh

Iman Humaydan (Lebanon)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Faculty, Between the Lines Program

Simone Inguanez (Malta)

Collaborative poetry project, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Senior College
Presentation, Avant-Garde Poetry Salon
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque
Literary Presentation, Lecce (Italy)

Khaled Khalifa (Syria)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque
Reading/Panel, Viterbo University

Khet Mar (Myanmar)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
Professional visit, San Francisco

Kim Reon (South Korea)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque

Peter Kimani (Kenya)

Film Screening/Panels, 40th Anniversary Week
Film Screening/Panel, Gulu Walk, Iowa City
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Reading, University of Iowa Museum of Art
Presentation, Senior College
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Reading/Panel, Viterbo University

Leonid Kostyukov (Russia)

Open World Delegate
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today

Angelo R. Lacuesta (The Philippines)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation to students from Des Moines Central Academy
Presentation, Cornell College (IA)
Presentation, Senior College
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque

Lo Yi-Chin (Taiwan)

Reading, Shambaugh House

Salman Masalha (Israel)

Short-term participant

Kei Miller (Jamaica)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Book Launch, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Elizabeth Tate High School
Presentation on Creole Languages, University of Iowa
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
Presentation, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
Professional visit, Glasgow (Scotland)

James T.C. Na (China/The Philippines)

Short-term participant
Iowa City Public Library Panel

Kiran Nagarkar (India)

Reading, 40th Anniversary Week
Presentation, International Literature Today
Reading, Carleton College
Professional visit, San Francisco

Vijay Nair (India)

Dramatic Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Residency, University of Pittsburgh

Kavery Nambisan (India)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Elizabeth Tate High School
Presentation, Iowa City Foreign Relations Council
Reading, South Asian Studies Program, University of Iowa
Reading, Ames Public Library
Presentation, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh
Presentation, Yale University
Presentation, Columbia University
Presentation, Cornell University

Beudelaine Pierre (Haiti)

Reading, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Elizabeth Tate High School
Presentation on Creole Languages, University of Iowa

Lawrence Pun (Hong Kong)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Chinese-language class, University of Iowa
Presentation to students from Des Moines Central Academy
Roundtable Discussion, The Guild Complex (Chicago)
Reading and Presentation, Northwestern University

Ra Heeduk (South Korea)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel

Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi (Malaysia)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Shambaugh House
Iowa City Public Library Panel

Aziz Nazmi Shakir-Tash (Bulgaria/Turkey)

Panel, 40th Anniversary Week
Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Senior College
Roundtable Discussion, The Guild Complex (Chicago)
Reading and Presentation, Northwestern University

Lindsay Simpson (Australia)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival

Sergey Soloukh (Russia)

Open World Delegate
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today

Ognjen Spahić (Montenegro)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Professional visit, Vienna (Austria)

Saša Stanisic (Germany)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Reading, University of Iowa Museum of Art
Presentation, Cornell College (IA)
Professional visit, Iceland

Ekaterina Taratuta (Russia)

Open World Delegate
Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today

Verena Tay (Singapore)

Dramatic Reading, Shambaugh House
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, West Branch Lions Club
Film Screening and Discussion, IWP Cinemathèque

Penelope Todd (New Zealand)

Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
Presentation, International Literature Today
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, Senior College

Alexander Ulanov (Russia)

Reading, Shambaugh House
Iowa City Public Library Panel
Presentation, International Literature Today
Presentation, Avant-Garde Poetry Salon

WRITER PORTRAITS BY TOM LANGDON

Hana Andronikova (Czech Republic)



Kim Reon (South Korea)



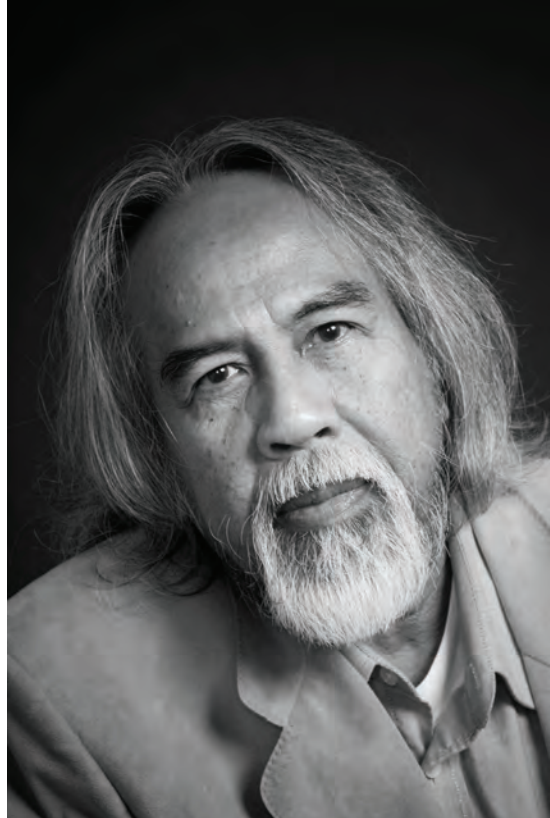


Beudelaine Pierre (Haiti)

Kei Miller (Jamaica)



Malim Ghozali (Malaysia)





Peter Kimani (Kenya)



Elena Bossi (Argentina)

Al-Mustaqeem Radhi (Malaysia)



THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The International Writing Program 40th Anniversary took place from October 7-13, 2007. All of the events programmed during this celebration were designed to raise public awareness of the IWP's ongoing mission: to promote and honor the world's literary traditions and to provide a voice for writers and their supporters everywhere.

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Over the past four decades, the IWP has supported hundreds of the world's best writers. The program also strives to maintain close connections with our alumni and with professional networks of writers, translators, publishers, and literary critics around the globe. For the 40th Anniversary, the IWP brought together a star-studded group of literary professionals who collaborated on a variety of special projects, performances, and public events. More than just a celebration, the 40th Anniversary was a chance to create new works of art that ranged across disciplines and media, and to showcase the power of world letters. We are grateful to Humanities Iowa and to the Arts and Humanities Initiative (at the UI) as well as to individual donors for their generous support. Heartfelt thanks, too, to the special guests who participated in this extraordinary week by traveling to be here, or by corresponding with us from abroad.

All of the 40th Anniversary participants displayed the kind of energy, vision and talent that help make the IWP a home for world-class writers. Many of the guests work in translation, helping to bring vital literature to the attention of English-speaking readers around the world. Several participants were current or former residents at the IWP. Noteworthy is the fact that the participants in the

Chinese-language reading represented both IWP's far and recent past, since two were guests in the 1960s (Cheng Wen-tao, Ya Hsien) and two are 2002 alumni (Li Rui, Xi Chuan). Other participants with strong ties to the IWP included Russell Valentino, UI Professor and founder of Autumn Hill Books; Matvei Yankelovich, publisher and founder of Ugly Duckling Presse; and Tomaž Šalamun (IWP, '71), the renowned Slovenian poet who gave this year's Paul Engle Memorial Reading on October 12 to a packed auditorium of over 300.

The 40th Anniversary programming continues to bear fruit, highlighting the UI's longstanding reputation as a center for quality writing, criticism, and research. The week featured bilingual readings in a variety of genres; panel discussions on issues in translation and contemporary world literature; screenings of films written, directed, and/or produced by IWP alumni; the writing of a collaborative poem, "Union," by acclaimed poets from the U.S. and elsewhere; and the creation and performance at the UI Theatre Building of a dramatic work composed by playwrights from around the world. One week after the Anniversary, this play – "All The World's A Page: The Global Play Project" – was performed a second time, at the Hampstead Theatre in London. This further



The Global Play is performed by student and local actors at the UI Theatre Building on October 10.

extended the IWP's already considerable reputation as a vehicle for advancing cultural understanding through literature and mutual exchange. Although this anniversary week was a unique endeavor, certain events, such as the Global Play Project, will lead to future publications and are being considered for subsequent residencies.

Other innovative projects were undertaken in honor of the Anniversary. Book artist Shari DeGraw crafted a commemorative broadside through her letterpress venue, Emphyrean Press. Audio recordings of the readings and panels will soon be available on the Virtual Writing University website at the UI (www.writinguniversity.org). And the November 2007 issue of *WordsWithout Borders*, the nation's premiere source of world literature in translation, is dedicated to the IWP Anniversary. Entitled "Only Connect: World Writing from Iowa," the issue features poetry and prose from twelve current and former IWP participants, along with an essay by Christopher Merrill.

SELECT ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE

Complete event schedule available at <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/news/index.html>

10.7

Reading by Daniel Weissbort, Matvei Yankelevich, and Michael Judd, Prairie Lights Bookstore

Screening, *The Magic Gloves* (2003; Martín Rejtman (IWP '00, Argentina), director, co-producer, screenwriter)

10.8 – 10.11

Renga Collaborative Poetry Sessions (Tomaž Šalamun (IWP '71, Slovenia), Dean Young, Christopher Merrill, Marvin Bell, István László Geher (IWP '07, Hungary), Simone Inguanez (IWP '07, Malta), Ksenia Golubovich (IWP '07, Russia)

10.8

Panel, “World Lit Net: Writing in the Age of Global Communication”

Reading by Ersi Sotiropoulos (IWP '81, Greece) and Hamdy El-Gazzar (IWP '07, Egypt), Prairie Lights Bookstore

10.9

Panel, “The World’s Voice In Our Ear: Influences of World Literature on Writing and Writers”

Russian-language Reading (Maria Galina, Leonid Kostyukov, Sergei Soloukh, Ekaterina Taratuta (all IWP '07))

Reading Eliot Weinberger and Kiran Nagarkar (IWP '07, India), Shambaugh House

10.10

Spanish-language Reading (Roberto Ampuero (IWP '96, Chile), Santiago Vaquera-Vásquez, Oscar Argueta, Elena Bossi (IWP '07, Argentina), Beaudelaine Pierre (IWP '07, Haiti))

Performance of “All The World’s A Page: The Global Play Project”

10.11

Chinese-language Reading (Li Rui (IWP '02, China), Xi Chuan (IWP '02, China), Cheng Chou-yu (IWP '68-'71, Taiwan/USA), Ya Hsien (IWP '67, Taiwan/Canada))

Screening and Discussion, *The Devil Came On Horseback* (IWP '07; Jane Wells, producer)

10.12

Panel, “Cultural Diplomacy: The Writer and The World”
Paul Engle Memorial Reading by Tomaž Šalamun (IWP '71)

Matvei Yankelevich at the Russian-language reading on October 9.



2007 PARTICIPANTS



Photo of Sarge Lacuesta
by Tom Langdon

Abdalla Mohamed Abdalla (Sudan/USA) Journalist, prose writer	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest
Daniel Alarcón (Peru/USA)	The New Symposium Middle East Reading Tour (ECA)
Roberto Ampuero (Chile/USA) Novelist, columnist, UI professor	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest Humanities Iowa
Hana Andronikova (Czech Republic) Novelist, fiction writer	Fall residency Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Dept. of State
Oscar Argueta (Guatemala/USA) Director and publisher of <i>El Heraldo Hispano</i>	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest
Richard T. Arndt (USA) Editor, foreign policy expert, historian	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Iowa
Sandra Barkan (USA) UI Professor Emerita	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest
Marvin Bell (USA) Writers' Workshop Professor Emeritus, Former Iowa Poet Laureate	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Iowa
Elena Bossi (Argentina) Poet, essayist, literary critic, editor	Fall residency Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, US Dept. of State

Edward Carey (UK/USA) Novelist, playwright	IWP Global Play Project Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Iowa
Ron Carlson (USA) Novelist, fiction writer, professor, UC-Irvine	Creative Writing Curriculum Conference (ECA)
Cheng Chou-yu (Taiwan/USA) Poet	IWP 40th Anniversary Guest Humanities Iowa & Private Gift
Chris Chryssopoulos (Greece) Novelist, essayist, translator	Fall residency Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Dept. of State
Peter Cole (USA) Poet, translator	Special Guest
Martin Davidson Chief Executive, British Council	Special Guest
Olena Kaltyiak Davis (USA) Poet	Middle East Reading Tour (ECA)
Stavros Deligiorgis (Greece) UI Professor Emeritus, researcher	The New Symposium (ECA) IWP 40th Anniversary Guest Humanities Iowa
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James T.C. Na (China/The Philippines) Poet	Fall Residency Independently Funded



Chinese guests present a congratulatory banner during the 40th Anniversary Commemoration.

Kiran Nagarkar (India) Novelist, playwright, critic, screenwriter	Fall Residency U.R. Ananthamurthy Fund
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THE MIDDLE EAST READING TOUR

APRIL 27-MAY 6, 2007

MAY 14-17, 2007

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The 2007 Middle East Reading Tour provided four American writers with the opportunity to travel to select countries in the Middle East, expanding and deepening their understanding of the region's unique landscape and rich cultural and literary traditions. The tour was hosted by the International Writing Program, and made possible by a grant from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Once in country, the writers were able to interact with literary counterparts, forging connections that offer exciting possibilities for collaborations, translations, and exchanges. The tour began on April 27 in Aleppo, Syria; the schedule of readings and lectures then took the delegation to Damascus; Amman, Jordan; Nazareth, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem, Israel; and Ramallah in the West Bank.

Linking up with the 2007 New Symposium in Paros, Greece, the tour ended with a three-day visit to Istanbul, Turkey from May 14-17. The participants took part in a range of readings, meetings, and cultural excursions in each location. As we made our way through the region, local points of interest generated for the delegates a sense of the broader contexts—cultural, historical, and geographical—in which their counterparts live and work.

Participants

Daniel Alarcón
(Peru/USA) Novelist, fiction writer, editor

Tony Eprile
(South Africa/USA) Fiction writer and novelist

Olena Kalytiak Davis
(USA) Poet

Jane Hirshfield
(USA) Poet and essayist



THE MIDDLE EAST READING TOUR

Christopher Merrill answers questions from the audience at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Turkey.





Jane Hirshfield reads to students in the English Department at Bosphorus University in Istanbul.



Olga Davis answers questions from students at Aleppo University in Aleppo, Syria.



Olena Davis with a student at Birzeit University, after a reading in Ramallah.



The Grand Mufti of Syria, Ahmad Badr al-Din Hassun, in Damascus, Syria.

Participants in the Middle East Reading Tour have a private meeting with the Grand Mufti of Syria in Damascus.





Daniel Alarcón and Tony Eprile prepare for a lunch with writers in Ramallah.



Students from Birzeit University in Ramallah.

Nihad Sirees (IWP '05), in Damascus.



PAROS : THE NEW SYMPOSIUM

MAY 7-13, 2007

The 2007 New Symposium session brought together writers, thinkers and artists from around the world to interrogate the concept of “Justice” from the perspectives of many different political and cultural structures. We posed such questions as, “Can there be justice apart from order? When the law fails, how might we summon justice? What is the proper scale on which justice should be sought—in each individual life, or in some larger time-span?” And finally, “Is it time to revise the ground rules for justice on a shrinking globe?” Prior to the conference, each participant wrote an essay on the theme, which served to create a common ground for discussion. Once at Paros, the participants gathered for three discussion sessions. After having their ideas expanded and challenged by their peers, the participants revised and refined their essays, which were then published in the form of an electronic book. The discussions strongly effected the re-writing of the essays, such that the published essays became wonderfully reflective of the exchange in Paros. To read the essays, visit <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/paros/index.html>.

The New Symposium was organized by the International Writing Program, funded through a grant from the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and co-sponsored

by the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, EKEMEL (European Translation Center-Literature & Human Sciences) and the Office of the Mayor of Paros. The Fulbright Foundation in Greece and EKEMEL were instrumental in identifying Paros as an ideal location for the event. In the mountain village of Lefkes, EKEMEL provided the House of Literature as the site for the Symposium. Here, as part of its mission to foster translation in literature and across the human sciences, EKEMEL hosts ongoing residencies for translators from around the world, providing good material conditions for individual and group work.

The New Symposium delegates began their program with a day of cultural tours in Athens, which provided a historical background for the discussions to come, as well as a setting for participants to meet each other before the ferry to Paros. During the half-week on Paros, the delegates took part in a variety of formal and informal activities which allowed them to gain an understanding of and to benefit from the extraordinary locale, and gave them opportunity to engage in many different interactions and exchanges with each other.



Helon Habila at Paros, Greece.



The Akropolis at Athens, Greece.

The town of Naoussa, Island of Paros, Greece.





The 2007 New Symposium participants at Paros, Greece.

FALL RESIDENCY PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF



PROGRAM SUPPORT

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